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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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MY BIRTHDAY.

BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.

Beneath the moonlight and the snow
Lies dead my latest year;
The winter winds are waiting low
Its dirges to hear.

I grieve not with the moaning wind
As if a loss befell;
Before me, even, lies behind,
God is, and all is well.

His light shines on me from above,
His low voice speaks within;
The patience of immortal love
Outwearying mortal sin.

Not mindless of the growing years
Of care and loss and pain,
My eyes are wet with thankless tears
For blessings which remain.

If dim the gold of life has grown,
I will not count it dross,
Nor turn from love's unselfish tone
To sigh for lack and loss.

The years no charm from nature take;
As seeking her I find,
As beautiful her mornings break,
As kind her evenings fall.

Love watches o'er my quiet ways,
Kind voices speak my name,
And lips that find it hard to praise,
Are slow, at least, to blame.

How softly ebb the tides of will!
How fields, once lost or won,
Now lie behind me green and still
Beneath a level sun!

How hushed the hiss of party hate,
The clamor of the throng!
How old, harsh voices of debate
Flow into rhythmic song!

Methinks the spirit's temper grows
Too soft in this still air,
Somewhat the restful heart foregoes
Of needed watch and prayer.

The bark by tempest vainly tossed
May founder in the calm,
And he who feels the strife is lost
Faint by the isles of balm.

Better than self-indulgent years
The outflow of heart and life,
Than pleasant songs in idle ears
The inward strife of truth.

Rest for the weary hands is good,
And love for hearts that pine,
But let the naked have the shroud,
Or sprightly souls be mine.

Let winds that blow from Heaven refresh,
Deep Love, the fount and life!
And let the weakness of the flesh
Be strength in Christ to spare.

And, if the eye must fail of light,
The ear forget to hear,
Make clearer still the spirit's sight,
More fine the inward ear!

So near me in mine hours of need
To soothe, or cheer, or warn,
And down the shadowy vista lead
As up the hills of morn!

From the October Atlantic.

CRUMBLING AWAY.

SINKING OF THE GROUND AT HYDE PARK.

The People Terribly Frightened

Great Damage to Property.

[From the Scranton Republican, 17th.]

Yesterday morning, about three o'clock, a large portion of the citizens of Hyde Park were startled by what seemed to them the visitation of an earthquake, and for a short time they were impressed, as they never were before, in the truth concerning the unstable character of all earthly things. The occasion of the alarm was nothing more or less, however, than the giving way of some of the props and pillars in the old wrought-out diamond vein of the Oxford mines. About four years ago a tunnel was excavated in this vein, which jeopardizes a considerable amount of property above it, and spread a general feeling of insecurity for some time among the residents of the borough. The last event has been attended with a great deal of excitement and fear, and will make investments in this quarter look like unsafe business for some time to come.

The vein runs in a northerly direction and the evidences of caving in on the surface trace it northward the same point. It is located nearly directly beneath Main street, and along the east side of this thoroughfare the rent in the earth is visible for several blocks. The property most injured is the Heermans House, the old Presbyterian Church property and the residences of Dr. Heath and Messrs. Howell and Richards. Mr. Sibbets, the proprietor of the Heermans House, was awakened, as he thought, by a was awakened by a terrible creaking all over the house, and noises as if purses were making a racket throughout the building. This lasted for a few moments and felt the building sinking gradually. He jumped to his feet, and was about to give an alarm, as the disturbance was such as to startle all. On gaining the street nothing was apparent, but on simultaneously looking at the rear of the house was rent and split at several points. The building consisted of two portions—an older and a newer one, the later forming the front. The front portion was separated from this, and sank from eight to twelve inches, while the back portion was forced up with and twisted and thrown out of line. The plastering was torn off, the wood work broken, the cross walls pulled apart, the window frames thrown out of line, wedged in the frames. The rent in the surface started a short distance from the front door, and ran up to Main street, past the corner of the Koehnzer Welsh C. M. Church. On the first occasion of the caving in of this vein, Old Presbyterian Church was not injured, as the pillars of wood on which to support the earth, a caving in may naturally be expected some day attended with terrible results, is to what extent is not known, but that there is no remedy, but some measure should certainly be taken to prevent a further caving in on property in the progress of mining operations, and the foolishness of erecting brick buildings on such unstable foundations should be apparent to all.

In addition to the damage reported yesterday, several other buildings suffered. The residences of J. S. Minnegh, clerk of Court, Attorney Alfred Wade, Ward, M. W. Price, M. Snyder, S. Means and Mr. Ashly are more or less damaged. Considerable alarm was during the day to such an extent that residence in it is unsafe and the guests are seeking other quarters. The bottom has fallen out of several wells in the vicinity, and parties are mourning the unexpected cutting off of their water supply. The damage done the property will probably amount to $50,000.

A New Fire Extinguishing Apparatus.

A Boston firm have devised a new kind of fire extinguishing apparatus, the details of which are substantially as follows: An iron receiver is placed in the counting room, or some other convenient room, of a business block or factory, connecting directly with the service pipe of the building from which it receives its supply of water. From this receiver are mains leading to each room, and pipes connected into the room to which it leads, and having its own valve, which cuts it off from the receiver. These pipes run into the rooms, under the floors, where the perforated pipes or "sprinklers" commence. These pipes are of gas-pipe size, and with small and numerous perforations, and run across the room, in frequent parallel lines of eight or ten feet apart. The lines of eight or ten feet apart. The connections in Room No. 3, the valve to Main No. 3 is opened, and in an instant a fine shower of spray fills the room, ready to extinguish almost any fire, and that without delaying the room with water—a very important consideration, as in many instances the damages by water is more serious than by fire. As soon as the fire is extinguished, the supply of water can be stopped by closing the valve. The pressure upon the receiver being stopped, the valve is again opened, and the water remaining in the pipes runs off through a small waste cock in the bottom of the receiver.

Within an area of less than ten miles, in the vicinity of Chester, Illinois, a correspondent writes, there have been over one thousand barrels of pecans, and probably three times that amount of walnuts and hickory nuts gathered and stored or shipped, while there is scarcely any limit to the crop of hazle nuts. The hushes, in many places, are actually bent down to the ground, the same as they frequently are in the winter time by the ice and snow.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

New Combinations in the West.

Progress of Work on Pennsylvania Roads

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

NASHVILLE, November 16.—At a meeting of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad Company's stockholders yesterday, the old officers were re-elected. The reports show the road is in good condition.

THE CUMBERLAND AND OHIO.

LOUISVILLE, November 16.—There was a warm discussion in the City Council to-night on the proposition to subscribe two hundred thousand dollars to the Cumberland and Ohio Railroad, on condition that it is made a Louisville road. Action was postponed till next Thursday night. The proposition will probably carry, despite the strong opposition of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

THE CHICAGO, DUBUQUE AND MINNESOTA ROAD.

MADISON, WIS., November 16.—There is great rejoicing at McGregor, Iowa, to-day, over the completion of the Chicago, Dubuque and Minnesota Railroad to that place. A salute of thirty guns was fired in honor of the event.

WESTERN RAILWAY COMBINATIONS.

A correspondent at St. Joseph, Mo., writes as follows to the Chicago *Evening Journal:*

Commodore Vanderbilt has again stretched out his despotic arm, and the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad is now under his control. Forming a combination with the Toledo, Wabash and Western Railway, he has succeeded in wresting from Joy, the Western Railroad King, one of his most important lines, and henceforth the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, instead of being tributary to Chicago, is a mere feeder for Eastern lines, and tributary to Vanderbilt. This is a powerful blow, aimed directly at Chicago and St. Louis. It is a bid for the great Western and Southwestern passenger and freight traffic that is rapidly being developed by the immense network of railways that are being drawn around the Missouri metropolis and Leavenworth. The avowed and palpable object of the seizure of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad is to secure a great central route from New York *via* the New York Central to Buffalo, the Lake Shore to Toledo, the Toledo, Wabash and Western to Hannibal, and thence over the Hannibal and St. Joseph. The immense traffic now enjoyed by the Chicago and St. Louis—the lion's share going to Chicago—is diverted into a central channel.

It is among the possibilities that Commodore Vanderbilt has overreached himself, and played his trump cards too soon. It is in the power of Chicago to checkmate him in several ways. Heretofore Chicago has largely favored the New York Central and the New York, especially on account of the deserved popularity of the Michigan Central Railway. And yet it is certain that since the Erie built its Niagara Falls connection, that it is the most direct and the shortest route to New York. It is only necessary for Chicago to understand the situation to enable it to make Commodore Vanderbilt's latest experiment a costly one.

Other methods still remain, and one of these will doubtless be adopted. The Joy interest, as represented by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, and the Burlington and Missouri River Railroads, will not let this little game succeed while the means of preventing it is so clearly within the scope of its power. Within a few days a telegraphic operation from St. Joseph to the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad at Brownville, forming even a shorter line to Chicago than the present. Creston is but 100 miles from St. Joseph, and the road from here to that point requires only the laying of twelve miles of track to complete it, the road already being graded the entire distance and the track laid to within twelve miles of Creston. So much for the latest phase of the Vande-bilt vs. Joy case.

And the Chicago and Northwestern Railway was not built a day too soon. Opened exactly a month ago, it will prove a serious thorn to the Vanderbilt scheme, as is evidenced by the large amount of passenger and freight traffic that it is carrying. This road from Clinton, Iowa, to Lake Geneva, Wis., where it connects with the Iowa Division of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, twenty-four miles south of Davenport, is owned and operated by the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company, and is therefore bound to and will have the powerful corporation to butt against in his efforts to grasp the railroad business of the Southwest.

NEW RAILWAY SCHEMES.

The certificate of the Hillsborough and Cincinnati Short Line Railroad Company was filed with the Secretary of State of this city yesterday. The company is organized to build a railroad from some point on the Ohio river, within the corporate limits of Cincinnati, to some point in the town of Hillsborough, passing through the counties of Hamilton, Clermont, Brown and Highland. The capital of the company is fixed at $1,000,000. There was also filed a certificate incorporating the Southern Ohio Railroad, which is to be built from a point at or near the mouth of Sunnie Run, in Scioto county, Ohio, passing through the town of Hillsborough to Dayton. The line of the road between said terminal points is to pass through the counties of Scioto, Pike, Ross, Jackson, Pike, Highland, Clinton, Warren, Greene and Montgomery. The amount of capital stock is $5,000,000.

THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

The Washington *Evening Star* says: "It would seem that the Pennsylvania Central has met with a check in getting full control of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, and that the report that the company have obtained possession of a majority of the stock of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Road is premature. The Baltimore *Gazette* says that, 'On the contrary, the Pittsburgh monopolists have not yet secured a majority of the stock of the Pittsburgh and Ohio Railroad, to have to do with, as the Pennsylvania Company still has a majority. And whenever this circumstance is out and build a road of its own.

THE MILROY RAILROAD.

The Lewistown, Pa., *Gazette* of this week says: "There appears to be a determination to push the Milroy branch across the mountains, either by way of one of the gaps or by the route spoken of below in the Center *Reporter*, which says:

"The extension and connection of the Milroy Railroad with the line of the building through Pennsylvania, is being earnestly agitated. The road from Milroy *via* Bebbise (Havice) v.. y would reach a connection with our road, at a distance of about twenty miles, in the direction of the mouth of one of the Poe creek. Parties in Mifflin county have mapped out the country aforesaid, and proceeded to lay the same before the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

"The Snow Shoe Company have received orders to proceed with the grading of the Bellefonte branch, according to contract, and we expect to see that work going ahead now.

"Hands are at work all along the line between Beaver dam and Lindall; a short section of the Bald contract, a short distance west of Center Hall is graded; the road east of us is now graded to near the old cut, in Nittany Valley.

The proposed route up Havice Valley and then down to Poe creek presents no apparent obstacle except the mountain. If that mountain could be got a reasonable grade, a road would not only be cheaply built, but could be made a valuable connection with the Snow Shoe coal, open a wide range of lands covered with valuable timber.

MIRAMAR RAILROAD.

Last week's *Mercantile Journal*, published at Mt. Holly Springs, Pa., says: "The engineers of the Miramar Railroad reached this place last week, locating the route. They surveyed several routes through town, the last one being near the cemetery, and which will probably be adopted. The contractors are now at work on the road, and we hear that the cars are to be running through this month. Since writing the above we learn that the sinking of the surface continued the greater part of yesterday, and if yesterday's evidence is to be fully relied upon that he has had to vacate it.

GREATER DISASTERS FEARED IN THE FUTURE.

From the Republican of Monday:

The extent of damage done to property in Hyde Park by the caving in of the Oxford mines, is more apparent now than on the morning after the disaster.

This is owing to the fact that the sinking of the earth above the old vein continued on Saturday and Sunday, and the rent in the surface became so large at some points as to form a capacious chasm. On Thursday morning the old vein was explored for a considerable distance, and though not explored in a very thorough or satisfactory manner, an investigation reported that the props and pillars of wood on either side had given way and the ground above had sunk about half the depth of the excavation. The sinking through the top was therefore evidently the setting of the superincumbent mass in the spaces below not filled up. When this has taken place to the fullest extent, the property owners in the vicinity may rejoice. But after all this security can only be viewed as temporary, except something is done to compel coal operators to respect the rights of life and property, by leaving pillars at such intervals and of such proportions, as to prevent the possibility of caving in.

Beneath the vein that has been wrought out are other veins, which, if worked in the same manner, and if the same system of excavation takes place in these—if the operator exhibits the same reckless disregard for life and property—there is much more disastrous results must follow than those which have just taken place. The fact is that the system of mining coal throughout the entire anthracite region is such as to make the property immediately over the scene of operations unsafe property. Of course this has not been the case as yet, because sufficient time has not elapsed to rot the props and timber. But the time will. In many mines, and districts, which are now apparently secure, must go under, involving inestimable destruction of life and property.

In a few years more, if operations are continued on the whole of the coal vein, it will be undermined, and left standing on wooden props and skeleton pillars, like a person on stilts. Under such circumstances it would require but a slight concussion of the earth, or even a sudden change in the temperature of the atmosphere, to cause the whole to crumble and fall. Or, in case of a heavy rain, the water would pass away in another region without any disastrous consequences, or would be absorbed by the top or fifteen thousand inhabitants of the borough?

After attention was called, a few days ago, to the mining operations going on in Hyde Park in the vicinity of the Scranton Iron Furnace, the men employed in this manufactory can distinctly hear the blasting beneath, and feel the tremor of the earth succeeding the explosions. The timbers are being built up, and some of the buildings are really heavy brick structures; if, therefore, there is the least lack of props of wood to support the earth, a caving in may naturally be expected some day attended with terrible results, as to what extent is not known, but that there is no remedy, but some measure should certainly be taken to prevent a further caving in on property in the progress of mining operations, and the foolishness of erecting brick buildings on such unstable foundations should be apparent to all.

In addition to the damage reported yesterday, several other buildings suffered. The residences of J. S. Minnegh, clerk of Court, Attorney Alfred Wade, Ward, M. W. Price, M. Snyder, S. Means and Mr. Ashly are more or less damaged. Considerable alarm was during the day to such an extent that residence in it is unsafe and the guests are seeking other quarters. The bottom has fallen out of several wells in the vicinity, and parties are mourning the unexpected cutting off of their water supply. The damage done the property will probably amount to $50,000.

THE JAIL MANAGEMENT.

The Prison Inspectors Investigate the Charges Against Warden Scandrett and His Turnkey—The Charges Unsupported and the Officers Acquitted.

Pursuant to adjournment a meeting of the Board of Prison Inspectors was held Saturday morning for the purpose of investigating the charges of mal-administration in the county jail, which had been preferred against Warden Scandrett and the inside turnkey by Rev. H. H. Hall, the agent of the Allegheny Prison Society. The following members of the Board were present: Judges Hampton, Sterrett, Stowe and Collier, Sheriff Fleming, Commissioners Scott, Stuckrath and McGunnigle, Mayors Brush and Callow, and Controller Lambert. Judge Hampton occupied the chair.

On motion, the meeting was thrown open to the reporters of the press.

The charges preferred against the warden and turnkey of the jail by the Rev. H. H. Hall, which have been published, were read.

The Rev. Mr. Hall, with a committee from the Prison Society, consisting of Messrs. Carlisle and Reed and Dr. Wray, was present, as also were Warden Scandrett and the inside keeper, Mr. Reed.

Mayor Callow stated that as Mr. Hall was present, he should be given an opportunity to substantiate the charges if he had the proofs at hand. To this it was then sworn and proceeded to testify as follows:

THE ALLEGED FAVORITISM.

As to favoritism, I will state that Miss Roberts occupied the hospital department for six months while healthy and strong, while other women, who were sick and infirm, were kept in their cells, and subjected to the taunts and jeers of other prisoners; several old women, who were quite infirm, were also kept in their cells, while there was abundance of room in the hospital department. With reference to [illegible] I will state that the rule of the prison is to allow prisoners to receive visitors and talk with them at the bars for only a half hour. A number of prisoners have been allowed to receive visitors and talk with them for an indefinite length of time, while others were not allowed to talk more than five minutes at a time.

Mr. Hall being asked whether he had complained to the physician of the prison, the Warden, or the Prison Board, with reference to the charges of maladministration, stated that he had not; he had complained only to the Prison Society; he knew the Prison Board had authority to correct irregularities, but felt it his duty to report to the Prison Society first; he did not consider himself a spy on the authorities, but was there to do all the good in his power.

Judge Stowe—You speak in your charges of filthy cells and filthy beds. What have you to say about that?

Mr. Hall—Some of the beds were so filthy that I could scarcely bear the smell while I was in the cell, and the appearance of the women is often in a filthy condition; I did not complain to the Warden, because I never could get any satisfaction out of him; I have asked him questions frequently, when he has refused to answer me entirely.

Judge Sterrett—With Mr. McLaughlin was agent of the Prison Society, he frequently came to the Prison Board with his complaints, and for months Mr. Hall has spoken to Judge Collier and myself only once or twice, if I remember correctly.

Mr. J. H. Reed was then called, who, after having been sworn, testified as follows: I know that Morris Collins gave twenty-five cents for the sending of a letter; I thought considering the expenses, it will be the successful manner in which he manages to get the wag of his coat close under his arms. The higher he gets the more he has opponents, and I comment he appears to think the better, while the elongated tails of the coat are alone sufficient to denote the nationality of the wearer. I have no trouble in having baskets of provisions sent in to me. Mr. Scandrett requested baskets; I was willing to send baskets in for Mr. Reed during the hours he said no baskets were allowed; Mr. Reed made [illegible] remarks to me while showing visitors about; he would say, "Here's Rev. E. L. W. Jones, who swindled the Presbyterians out of three thousand dollars;" told him I would report him; he told me to report and be d—d; Messrs. Scandrett and Smith always treated me kindly; the letters I sent were to be carried by hand; they were not to be taken to the postoffice; I gave a dollar once to Mr. Doyle, but he never got them; I gave a dollar once to have a letter taken out, but did not get it; I gave change at that time; Sims and Morgan were allowed to run about the jail wherever they pleased; saw Small put the jail boys' coats for his meals at one o'clock during the day; don't think Mr. Scandrett or Mr. Smith were responsible; it was the hall boys who did it.

Michael Biglin was next called and sworn.

Mr. Carlisle—Did you ever pay five dollars for the choice of a cell?

Witness—I did not. I gave Mr. Reed five dollars to buy little necessaries for me, but he never actually asked to be placed in another cell, because the man who occupied the cell with me was too filthy. I suppose some of the prisoners were handling the money, and when I was moved they thought I had paid for the new cell.

John Lewis was next called and testified as follows: I have done washing for the prisoners in the hospital: I after-wards worked in my cell; Mr. Reed never objected; I quit because I was told that [illegible] Mr. Scandrett; he [illegible] Mr. Reed; Mr. Reed keeping money sent out by prisoners, or refusing to send out letters.

TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE.

A. W. Smith, Assistant Warden, sworn: Was never in the habit of passing baskets into E. L. W. Jones between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock; never knew baskets handed into him after three o'clock; in regard to the letter he paid a dollar for delivering, he said it was necessary it should reach its destination that night, and he said if I could get a boy to take it he would give me a dollar; I gave a dollar; are grading and surveying on the other end of the route and figuring for the right of way. The route is up the Beeskumraw run to Warrior's Gatland, and thence on the original survey of the Oil Creek Road to Titusville. The New York Interests desire to run to Oil City, and have engaged to build another road through the oil regions. We suppose this will be opposed by other high contracting parties, and that the contest will be lively, and the longest pole will knock off the persimmons.

THE LITTLE CREEK VALLEY ROAD.

We learn from the Greensburg *Argus* that the project of building a railroad down the valley of Turtle Creek, to intersect the Pennsylvania Central at a point near Stewarts Station, has been revived—and this time with the prospect of assured success. The project has received a new impulse from the discovery of a bed of coal, said to be fifteen feet thick, and the whole of the lower part of the valley, to the junction at Brush Creek, and at a distance of only eighty feet from the surface of the ground—as the possible point (near Murryville) and also from the fact that an extraordinary rock underlies the whole valley, from which brine of a remarkable strength is obtained. The well now opened on the farm of Mr. F. L. Stewart, gives evidence of the capacity of that region to supply, not only salt in unlimited quantity, but also some chemical products of rare occurrence and value, particularly Bromine. The bed of coal above mentioned is identical with the Youghiogheny River coal, which has always had a ready sale in the famous Pittsburgh bed. These are the latest developments. The result of all this is not hard to predict, and we expect to chronicle in the near future of these fine mornings our rural friends out there will be awakened from their Rip Van Winkle sleep of peace by the rude snort of the iron horse.

ASHTABULA, YOUNGSTOWN AND PITTSBURGH.

The Ashtabula *Telegraph* of the 11th says: The grading of the Ashtabula, Youngstown and Pittsburgh Road is, we believe, completed to Rock Creek, and the work is now going on between the village and the latter place. The masonry is completed, and in a few days more, when it is expected that attention will be turned to that part of the line between the Ashtabula and the harbor, the track will be laid. Bloomfield the grading is progressing. To keep up the work and meet accruing expenses, it will be necessary that the instalments of ten per cent. has been laid due and payable on and before the 12th day of December.

From another source we learn that engineers are engaged this week in locating the line of the road between Niles and Warren.

Dates from the City of Mexico to the 11th inst., state that Mr. Nelson, United States Minister, has sent his Secretary to make an investigation of the case of the American bark Brothers, seized by the Mexican authorities. Formidable revolutions are taking place throughout the country, and a change in the existing government is expected. The treasury is bankrupt, and the people are going over to the revolutionists.

THE EMMINGER MANDAMUS CASE.

What the Supreme Court Have to Say—A Lesson for Emminger and his Democratic Abettors—The Peremptory Mandamus Issued.

Chief Justice Thompson Friday delivered the opinion of the Supreme Court, in the matter of the application for a writ of mandamus to compel John Emminger to certify to the election of Hon. James M. Weakly, as Senator from the Nineteenth District. Following is the opinion:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ex rel. Jesse B. Parker et al. vs. John Emminger. Mandamus. Opinion of the Court by Thompson, C. J.

This is an application for a peremptory mandamus to the respondent forthwith to proceed to cast up and sign duplicate returns of the election and notice of election of State Senator in the Nineteenth Senatorial District of this Commonwealth, composed of the counties of Cumberland and Franklin, at the election on the second Tuesday of October last, according to the requirements of the 82d, 83d and 84th sections of the act of Assembly of the 2d of July, 1839, which, it is charged in the suggestion filed, and has been made to appear he has hitherto refused to do.

The answer of the respondent is before us, and to this the relators have demurred. The respondent sets forth in his answer that he, the return judge of the county of Cumberland, met the return judge of the county of Franklin, H. G. Sides, at the Prothonotary's office at Carlisle, in the county of Cumberland, on the 17th day of October, 1871, the time and place fixed for the meeting of the return judges in and for said district, and did cast up and ascertain from the county returns that it appeared that in the county of Cumberland, for Senator, "Henry K. Parker had 4,114 votes, and that James M. Weakly had 4,064 votes; in the county of Franklin J. M. Weakly had 4,606 votes, and that Henry K. Parker had 3,951 votes, and that it appearing that Daniel Imbert, Esq., have been made use of in obtaining said votes to so large an extent as to vitiate the said election, he did change the result, we decline to certify to one election of either of said candidates, and refer the subject to the Senate, which, under the Constitution, is made the judge of the qualifications of its members." This both judges signed, and it was forwarded to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Afterwards, it appears, by the answer of respondent, that H. G. Sides, the return judge from Franklin county, on the 20th day of October, signed and forwarded to the Secretary of the Commonwealth and to James M. Weakly, the return and notice of election required by the act of Assembly. In this the respondent did not join.

It is apparent from the certificate signed by the respondent, as set forth above, that from the county returns James M. Weakly received in the Senatorial district a majority of 803 votes for Senator, and was entitled to the certificate mention in the act of Assembly, and notice of his election, viz: The duplicate returns of that fact one, to be sent to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, through the mail, and one to be deposited in the Prothonotary's office of the county of Cumberland, and a notice of the election to be sent to him. The returns of the counties presented these facts, and this is admitted in the certificate the respondent refused to sign. If the respondent as a portion of his answer.

The answer, or plea of the respondent, contains being required by a peremptory mandamus recently further, as one of the return judges of the Seventeenth District of this State.

First—Because he has already sufficiently certified, according to the requirements of the act of Assembly, in the certificate already signed by him.

Second—Because in his capacity as one of the county commissioners of Franklin county, which he was also for want of proper returns by township or district election officers required to be filed in the Prothonotary's office. He also charges want of care and haste in the county return judges of Cumberland county, in making out the county returns for Senator, as well as other returns.

Third—Because from facts within his own knowledge, and other sources, which he alleges can be established by proof, "bribery and corruption were resorted to in order to secure the election of the said James M. Weakly," which facts he states somewhat at large, and alleges that he is prepared to prove before us. That the Act of Assembly in the case ought not to be required to make or sign other or further certificates or returns of election than those already signed by him.

We have not set out the plea or answer of the respondent in the language of counsel, but have been asked to say whether they are sufficient in law? That they are not, we do not for a moment hesitate, to say.

First—As to the first plea. The certificate therein set forth is the one required by the act of Assembly. The act says that when the return judges have met, "they shall cast up and sign duplicate returns, and make duplicate returns of all the votes given for such officers in said district (Senate, Congress or Legislature) and the name of the person elected," and dispose of the duplicates made out as already stated; and further, the act requires that it shall be the duty of the return judges in every case to transmit to each of the persons elected in the district, to the Senate, Assembly, or House of Representatives, a certificate of his election within five days after the day of making up such returns."

In the certificate referred to, there is no stating up of the returns and no saying that James M. Weakly is Senator, nor any pretense of notice to him of his election. On the contrary, this was refused, because, the judges say, of the alleged "bribery and fraud" had been made use of to secure the election of the candidate, and that in the county of Cumberland a majority of votes in the district. So far from this being the certificate required by law, it was a refusal to perform the duty required by the act of Assembly, and is not to be regarded as a plea at all—at least nothing to the contrary is alleged—and the only duty of the return judges was, as we have said, to certify for and to whom the majority had been given. The county returns were, as to them in the performance of this duty, conclusive, and not to be disregarded in the least, exceptions, perhaps, for plain clerical errors, and could not be made the basis of any action by the return judges. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, November 25, 1871.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1871.

CITY TICKET

MAYOR,
BENJAMIN W. MORGAN.
TREASURER,
CHRISTOPHER L. MAGEE.
CONTROLLER,
ROBERT J. McGOWAN.

THE ANSWER.

The columns of several of our local contemporaries for a week past have contained innuendoes, and in some instances direct charges, that a change was to be made in the policy and general conduct of this journal. It was stated that the present editor was to be supplanted, that the paper had been bought up by persons not formerly identified with it in interest or friendship, that a complete revolution had been effected, and that the COMMERCIAL was to be henceforth something entirely different from what it had been in the past, to wit: an independent Republican newspaper. Many other rumors and stories, as inconsistent with each other as they were false in fact, were put in circulation—some inspired by the merest malice, others by an inventive imagination so prolific in sensations. Hitherto we have not thought it worth the while to contradict these various rumors, knowing that a weak malice soon expends its strength in a community like this, and that the action of the stockholders of the Company would be the best reply to those of our contemporaries who inconsiderately fell into error. We here publish that reply taken from the minutes of the meeting:

"A meeting of the stockholders of the COMMERCIAL PRINTING COMPANY was held at the office of the PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, November 21st, 1871, at eleven o'clock A. M., pursuant to notice.

"On motion of WILLIAM K. NIMICK, JAMES M. COOPER was chosen President and R. B. CARNAHAN, Secretary. On motion it was resolved that we go into an election for seven directors. Gen. W. W. IRWIN and ALEX. BRADLEY were appointed tellers. The following named persons were unanimously elected directors to serve until the next general election, viz: C. D. BRIGHAM, G. E. NORTH, WILLIAM ANDERSON, EDWARD ABEL, CHARLES R. BRIGHAM, C. H. BRADLEY and ROBERT B. CARNAHAN."

"At a meeting of the Board of Directors subsequently held on the same day, C. D. BRIGHAM was chosen President of the Board of Directors, WM. ANDERSON, Secretary, and EDWARD ABEL, Treasurer. C. D. BRIGHAM was appointed Editor.

"We have only to say further in this connection, that the meeting of the stockholders above referred to was the largest which has met since the organization of this paper, and represented more than two-thirds of the stock; that the present Board was chosen without the dissent of a single vote; that business energy and industry and a resolute determination to achieve all the success as a newspaper which energy, industry and substantial merit can give, and an earnest fidelity to the principles of the Republican party, will be, as it has ever been, the policy of the management.

The editor cannot let the occasion pass without expressing his deep and lasting gratitude to the gentlemen with whom he has been so long associated, for their kind and valuable assistance in building up and sustaining the PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL until it has reached its present solid condition, and the many personal kindnesses which he has received from them.

THE RESTORATION OF OUR COMMERCIAL MARINE.

Many plans and theories, some wise and some otherwise, for the revival of the ocean shipping interests of the United States, have been propounded within the last few months. The latest, and seemingly the most sensible and practicable of these plans, is proposed by Mr. JOSEPH NIMMO, Chief of the Tonnage Division in the Treasury Department, who suggests the imposition of discriminating charges on goods imported in foreign bottoms. Referring to the fact that the time is a perfect protection of nineteen-twentieths of the industries of the country, Mr. NIMMO points out that in the building of ships the cost of transportation, as an element of protection, is entirely eliminated. Hence the question arises whether the American ship-builder ought not to receive, by law, some measure of that protection which the builders of houses, bridges and railroads receive without any legislation whatever; and he asks why, if the workers in those industries of the country which are not exposed to foreign competition, are to enjoy the rates of profits and wages which spring from our several social, political and natural advantages, the same rates should not be secured to the American ship-builder? For, *as it is held*, it is the rates of labor, not the tariff, which makes the construction of vessels more costly in the United States than on the Clyde. Under our relations of maritime reciprocity, however, British ships are admitted to our ports from every quarter of the world on precisely the same terms as American vessels, so that our own bottoms engaged in foreign commerce are absolutely without any protection whatever. In such a contest it is evident that the nation which can build and sell vessels most cheaply must sooner or later command the international commerce of the globe. The prosperity enjoyed by our coastwise trade in consequence of the protection secured thereto by the law of 1817, which prohibits foreign vessels from engaging in American home commerce, is set forth in detail. Our steam marine employed in this trade exceeds that of any country in the world; numbering at present 1,087,600 tons, and increasing at a gratifying rate. It is more than doubtful whether the most clamorous advocates of free trade would consent to the repeal of this law, the throwing open of our coastwise commerce to foreign competition, and the consequent displacing of almost every American steamer from the trade between New York and our Eastern and Southern ports. This, however, is exactly what is meant by abolishing the principle of protection from our merchant marine, and its operations are sufficiently shown by the fact that in the free competition of foreign commerce the United States flag *is* not to be found at the masthead of a single steamship in trans-Atlantic trade. Mr. NIMMO argues, therefore, that the protection which is now enjoyed by our coastwise marine should be extended to our vessels engaged in foreign trade. Attention is also directed to the fact that in 1828, when the maritime reciprocity act was passed, wooden sailing vessels were the only vehicles of commerce upon the ocean, and that it was then our interest to promote such a policy because, in building these vessels, we surpassed every other nation in cheapness, sea-worthiness and speed. For the same reason England was, until 1849, a persistent enemy of maritime reciprocity, in which she saw the decided triumph of American shipping. At that date, however, foreseeing the success of steam as a propelling power, and of iron as a building material, that country in 1849 adopted maritime reciprocity, whose results have far exceeded her most sanguine expectations. The introduction of these new agents has turned the tables against us; and the great question of the day is, therefore, whether we shall continue to adhere to the policy adopted forty years ago, after all the conditions which led to its adoption have been radically reversed? The letter of Mr. NIMMO will be certain, from its vigorous and comprehensive presentation of the subject, to command general consideration.

SOME time ago we remarked upon the growing disposition evinced by the artisans and laboring classes of France to emigrate from their unhappy country. The telegraph now informs that a considerable number of Frenchmen, chiefly from Alsace, are finding homes in Florida; and we learn from the French papers that the inclination for expatriation is every day becoming stronger and more evident. Particularly is this the case with skilled workmen. Agents from our own and other countries have, it seems, taken advantage of the lassitude and prostration which the recent terrible events in France have produced, to set before the skilled workmen, with good effect, the better prospects which await them abroad. The United States and England have been most active in this matter, but it appears that Russia is not slow in following their example. A short time since a body of fifty of the most skilful workmen of France, not a few of them real artists, left Paris for St. Petersburg, while the exodus to England and our own country continues at an increasing rate. Against this expatriation the French journals protest in the most emphatic manner, warning the workingmen of France that in the countries to which they are invited they will find customs and manners very disagreeable to them, and that their promised prosperity and happiness will prove a mere deception. This opposition is but natural, since in the loss of her art producers, France lessens in a corresponding ratio the products of art itself, while the new markets into which the new talents are carried are benefited in a proportionate degree. It is a very serious loss to that country.

THE Philadelphia *Press* publishes a list of the Senators and Representatives of the Forty-second Congress, which assembles on the 4th proximo, classified in accordance with their political affiliations. This list gives a Republican majority of thirty-seven votes in the House of Representatives; while the Senate, when full, will have fifty-seven Republicans to seventeen Democrats, making a Republican majority of eighty on joint ballot. The membership of the House is complete; in the Senate there are three vacancies; one caused by the death of Senator GOLDTHWAITE, of Alabama; one in North Carolina by the non-admission of the ex-rebel VANCE, and one in Illinois by the resignation of Senator LOGAN. The vacancy from Georgia has recently been filled by the election of Senator NORWOOD, a moderate Democrat, who is without political disabilities, and will undoubtedly be admitted to his seat. The Alabama and North Carolina vacancies will of course be filled by Democrats, while some other Republican will unquestionably succeed LOGAN from Illinois.

A NUMBER of important facts relative to drunkenness were adduced last Wednesday at the annual convention of the New York Association for the Cure of Inebriates. The President of the Association, Dr. Parker, stated that thirty-three and a third per cent. of all deaths in New York City were occasioned, directly or indirectly, by the use of alcoholic drinks, and that in the last thirty years one hundred and ninety thousand persons had thus come to their deaths. Dr. Harris, Inspector of Prisons, stated in his report that on visiting fifty-six prisons in the State he had found that seventy-five per cent. of all crimes committed were traceable to the use of liquors. Remarking upon these statements the New York *Herald* well says that they "are enough to startle order loving and philanthropic people from their propriety, especially when it is known that the Excise law, even modified as it was by the last Legislature, is simply a dead letter." Dr. Parker held that drunkenness was a disease like scarlatina or small-pox, which from a moral standpoint was pardonable and curable; but viewed in that light, it would seem even more requisite than ever that the unrestrained sale of liquors in data city at all hours of the day and night and during every Sunday, should become the subject of strong and earnest legislation.

Disposal of the New Bonds in Europe.

Many erroneous impressions have prevailed among the public relative to the manner of conducting the business pertaining to the syndicate in Europe. It has been stated by many newspapers that the bonds forwarded to Europe from the United States Treasury have been consigned to Messrs. Jay Cooke, McCulloch & Co., and forwarded in instalments of $10,000,000 each; whereas, not a single bond has been transmitted to Jay Cooke, McCulloch & Co., directly or indirectly, by the use of alcoholic drinks, and that to the last thirty-seven days one hundred and ninety thousand persons had thus come to their deaths. Dr. Harris, Inspector of Prisons, stated in his report that on visiting fifty-six prisons in the State he had found that seventy-five per cent. of all crimes committed were traceable to the use of liquors. Remarking upon these statements the New York *Herald* well says that they "are enough to startle order loving and philanthropic people from their propriety, especially when it is known that the Excise law, even modified as it was by the last Legislature, is simply a dead letter." Dr. Parker held that drunkenness was a disease like scarlatina or small-pox, which from a moral standpoint was pardonable and curable; but viewed in that light, it would seem even more requisite than ever that the unrestrained sale of liquors in data city at all hours of the day and night and during every Sunday, should become the subject of strong and earnest legislation.

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THE reports received by the Department of Agriculture at Washington relative to the cotton crop of the present year, are said to be of a favorable character. It is thought that the product will fall short of last year's yield by some twenty or twenty-five per cent., but the cotton acreage is also said to be proportionately less, so that the crop will, after all, be correspondingly as large as that of last year, while the average quality suffers no falling off. The increased price which the present quantity will bring, will probably make the total value of the crop nearly or quite equal to that of last year, while at the same time there has been a much larger production of grain, grass and other products. Another such year will place the Southern States in an excellent pecuniary condition, restoring them to something like the prosperous condition which characterized them before the war. Now let the South put down the Ku-Klux, and vote for a general Amnesty Act, and the seeds of a still more recent harvest will have been sown.

THE new grain elevator of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, now in course of erection at Baltimore, is regarded as one of the most extensive and important improvements in and around that city. The building, located at Locust Point, is one hundred and fifty feet long, by eighty wide, and one hundred and twenty-five feet high. There are one hundred and twenty bins, each of which will hold five thousand bushels. The arrangements are such that cars can be unloaded in one minute, and vessels of the largest class loaded in one hour and a half. The building will cost when finished $300,000.

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HOME AND FOREIGN COMMERCE.

Letters from Jos. Nimmo, Jr., Chief of Tonnage Division, Treasury Department, Washington, and Henry Carey, L.L.D.

MONONGAHELA HOUSE,
PITTSBURGH, PA., November 18, 1871.)

DEAR SIR: I inclose herewith the letter from our great political economist, HENRY C. CAREY, to which I referred yesterday. 'Tis true, as Mr. CAREY says, that the government publishes detailed statements of our foreign commerce, while omitting to notice a domestic one far greater in amount and far more productive of national wealth. I do not think, however, that he underestimates the value of legitimate foreign commerce, regulated in such manner as not to conflict with the rights and interests of American labor.

Our reports of commerce and navigation give data in regard to the entry of vessels of even thirty tons from foreign ports, but no facts are given in regard to the movement of shipping on the western rivers and on the lakes.

Ask us about the importation of cloves or of cayenne pepper, and we can tell the quantities received from each country, whether it comes direct or indirect from the country of its production, the ports at which it is entered, and the quantity entered at each port. But inquire of us in regard to the quantity of cereals transported from the west to the east and you will be referred to the statements of Boards of Trade, to the reports of railroad companies, and to reports on the business of the New York State canals.

In regard to the enormous quantities of coal which Pittsburgh supplies to that market, extending for two thousand miles from Cincinnati to St. Louis, and New Orleans, we can only refer you back to the PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, and to other newspapers to whose enterprise we are indebted for almost all we know in regard to the movements of the products of the west.

Were it not that I have seen with my own eyes the immense flotillas of coal boats and barges moving out from your harbor during the present rise of the river, I should never have known that there had been such a commercial movement. To one accustomed to estimate shipping by the ton, it sounds quite like a revelation to hear men talk about the *number of acres* in a tow of barges propelled by a single steamer.

Over six millions of bushels of coal have gone down the river during the last three days, say the newspapers,—a million dollars' worth of coal when it reaches its market; and this not an exchange at Pittsburgh of merchandise from one market to another, but a million dollars worth of property actually created by labor just here. All this coal will be sold again, and much of it will be sold twice before it reaches the consumer, but those transactions, though exceeding in amount the returns received at Pittsburgh, are of inconsiderable importance in the production of national wealth in comparison with the creative energies which took this mineral from the earth and placed it at the gates of commerce.

Do you ask why it is that the Government does not collect and publish information in regard to these great facts of national experience? I answer, simply because the country has never demanded that such information should be collected. The constitution provides that Congress shall have power "to regulate commerce among the States," but, as you well know, that power has been confined to commerce upon navigable waters, and our laws in regard to the compilation of commercial statistics confine the Government almost exclusively to facts relating to foreign trade.

The time is coming, and perhaps now is, when the country will demand that the great facts of internal commerce shall be made known.

Man lived nearly six thousand years upon the earth before the circulation of the blood was discovered. The life of a nation is analagous to the physical life of man—the energies of the people are the great heart—rivers, railroads and canals are the veins and arteries, and the commodities of commercial exchange are the life-blood.

Is it not a matter of high national importance, as well as of great local interest, that we should know the exact the pulsations of these mighty forces, the quantities of life-blood thrown outwards by the movement, and the quantities returned by the centers of trade, and thus to aid in making of political economy a true inductive science, placing its facts in figures in the guage of a great American publicist it now is, *a science of assumptions*.

I am, sir, very respectfully yours,
JOS. NIMMO, JR.

C. D. BRIGHAM, Esq., Editor of the COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

MR. CAREY'S LETTER.

DEAR SIR:—We collect the most detailed information relative to a beggarly foreign commerce, while wholly omitting to notice a domestic one, far greater in value and in amount. That of this city alone is greater than that of the whole Union with foreign countries.

At first, this suggestion may startle you, but you will believe it after having studied the facts that will now be given by the light.

The total foreign commerce, purchases and sales, may be stated in round numbers at a thousand millions. In comparing with this the domestic commerce, it is necessary to observe, that *here, as there*, in every passage of property involves a purchase and a sale; and that as the sum of purchases and sales gives the amount of foreign commerce, so must it of the domestic one. This understood, we may now look at the figures of this latter, so far as they are attainable, as follows:

The annual sales of this city (Philadelphia) amount to $325,000,000. Preparatory to their coming on the market, there must have been purchased of raw material, labor, etc., etc., to nearly this amount, and sales by laborers, miners, wool dealers, and others, to a similar amount, making in the whole nearly $650,000,000. The goods being finished they now are sold, the purchases and sales again amounting to $650,000,000, giving, thus far, $1,300,000,000. Follow now these goods through the hands by means of which they are distributed to consumers, at the same time following the purchases and sales incident to the employment of all the wages paid in our thousand various employments, and you will find that the commerce of the district within ten miles of our State House would be underestimated at an amount greater than that of our whole foreign commerce.

Turn now to the *wealth of nations* and you will find ADAM SMITH telling his countrymen that the value of commerce depended on the frequency of exchanges; that the home trade was the most important of any that it was the one in which an equal capital afforded the greatest revenue and created the greatest employment for the people of the country; and yet, that the foreign commerce in which as he estimated the rapidity of exchange must be at least twelve times greater than in any foreign one, had been treated by his predecessors as "merely subsidiary" to the comparatively insignificant distant one; a course of proceeding, in his eyes, utterly absurd.

Since his day all exchanges, home and foreign, have been greatly rapid, but the increase in the rapidity of the former has been ten-fold greater than in that of the latter. Taking, however, only his estimate of twelve purchases and sales at home, giving but six exchanges of labor, and of its various products on their way from producers to consumers, in the form of food, fuel, clothing, houses, machinery, etc., etc.; and then assuming $8,000,000,000 as our total product, we should have $96,000,000,000 for the internal commerce against $1,000,000,000 for the foreign one. Reduce it to half of this and you would arrive at the figures at which I have been accustomed to estimate it, to wit: fifty for one. Great as is this difference, it does but faint justice to the internal commerce, every domestic exchange involving two demands for home labor against one created by foreign trade.

The view thus presented is that of ADAM SMITH, a man who alone was worth more than all the English economists by whom he has been succeeded. See how brought he held in contempt the system which now leads us to great expenditure in the publication of statistics of our foreign trade, while wholly neglecting a domestic one a thousand times more important. In all really civilized countries the former constitutes the mere apex of the edifice. Were it (foreign commerce) in our case to be at once stricken from existence, the additional domestic commerce that would then arise to take its place would be soon made to such importance that the loss would be unfelt except by the foolish people who give so much employment to French *modistes*; and by foreign traders who now expend so much in teaching our people to study economical science in the books of men whose special object is that of teaching us how to sell our raw materials cheap while buying finished products dear.

The little coral insect builds up islands destined eventually to be united into continents. The lion and the tiger leave behind them no evidence that they ever had existed. The difference between the two is the difference between the true commerce and foreign trade. That which the working and civilizing leave behind them may endure forever. That which the merchant princes of Venice, Genoa and other great trading cities left behind has long since passed away.

Yours, very truly,
HENRY C. CAREY.

J. NIMMO, JR., Esq.
PHILADELPHIA, November 4, 1871.

Vice President Colfax.

A private letter from Mr. COLFAX, written a week or two ago, gives his views of a movement in which he has been reported to figure, as follows: They know I have not the slightest sympathy with any such movement, and have no disposition within my knowledge, to attack or arraign the President. There has been no Administration within my recollection whose record has been as valuable to the party which elected it as President Grant's. Its acts have been the stronghold of defense for all our critics as well as candidates. Its mistakes have been of minor importance, and any President, even one trained to politics, would have made quite as *many, if not more*. Indeed, I could not and would not be a candidate for the Presidency if it were possible, which it is not.

Revival of Ritual Troubles.

The resignation of Rev. Dr. Ewer, of Christ Church, a few days since, seems to have created a panic in the nation among the Episcopalians of New York City, and is said to have been provoked by the revival of differences between him and his vestry on the ritual question. A meeting of the vestry, called to act on the resignation, it was alleged that the rector had set up a confessional, and that not a few of the congregation were regular frequenters of it. It is understood that the Doctor's friends will build him a new church, and that the opportunity to carry out his peculiar views without interference.

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TAMMANY.

Its Origin, History, Customs, Victories, Defeats and Final Dissolution—A Curious Chapter of Political Information.

The Tammany Society, whose political power was broken on the 7th inst., and whose charter of incorporation the next New York Legislature will very probably revoke, was one of the most potent organizations of the kind that ever existed, having controlled the destinies of many an aspirant for the highest executive, judicial and legislative honors. The society has been in existence over eighty-two years, having been organized on the 12th of May, 1789, about two weeks after Gen. Washington's instalment as the first President of the United States. It derives its name from that of a famous Indian chief, whose attachment to liberty was said to be greater than his love of life, and was established by its founders to counteract the tendencies of the Cincinnati Society, which before its Constitution was amended, was said to be monarchical, or, rather, aristocratic in its objects and principles. The Society was originally composed of men of different political opinions, and was intended, as its first constitution, published in 1879, expresses, "to connect, in indissoluble bonds of friendship, American brethren of kindred attachments to the political rights of human nature and the liberties of the country." A benevolent feature was likewise incorporated in its organization, and, so that the American principles of its founders might be fully carried out, as well as with the design of exhibiting an unique antipathy to foreign customs, Indian forms and ceremonies were adopted. The year was divided into seasons and the seasons into moons. All the transactions of the society were to be dated from three eras—its own organization, our national independence, and the discovery of America by Columbus. The officers were to be thirteen Sachems, representing the thirteen States then recently elected annually. From their number or from the body of the society was to be elected a supreme head, who was to be styled Grand Sachem. All the customs and ceremonies observed at their meetings have been conformed from the aborigines. The fire mention the council fire, the calumet or pipe of peace, and the tomahawk, which they bury when the pipe is smoked. One of the principal objects which led to the adoption of these aboriginal forms and ceremonies was a desire to conciliate the numerous tribes of Indians, who at the time of the organization of the society were devastating the defenceless frontiers, slaying the inoffensive pioneers with the tomahawk, or laying their homes waste with fire. The members of the society were originally divided into tribes corresponding to the different States. When members joined the society they either chose the tribe to which they preferred to belong, or were assigned to one by the Grand Sachem; but this observance has for some time fallen into disuse.

From the period of its organization the Society continued to increase in wealth and political importance, and in 1805 was incorporated by an act of the Legislature. During the war of 1812 Tammany contributed materially to its support, its wigwam being the head-quarters for aiding, assisting and counseling in all measures required by the public safety, and the Society of Tammany or Columbian Order and the Northwest became the first leading theaters of action. There men Governor Tompkins, Martin Van Buren and other friends of the administration, who performed invaluable services by private exertions and, there, also, successful naval officers received the plaudits and honors of the Society.

After the conclusion of peace, it continued for many years to exercise a formidable power in the State and Nation. In the State and City elections it contributed largely to the election of General Jackson to both his terms of office, giving an unwavering support from its institution to the close of his career. In 1840, however, Tammany had to succumb to the tornado which swept over the country and elected General Harrison, but in the municipal election of 1834 it succeeded in regaining control of the city government. This election was averred by their opponents to have been gained by the aid of adopted citizens, and as was stoutly alleged, by an enormous amount of illegal voting, while in a manner in which a considerable share of the offices were parcelled out to the adopted citizens, and very generally established among native-born citizens, and was the means of waking up the Know Nothings to such an extent that in the following year the late James Harper was elected Mayor of the American party, aided by the support of a large number of Whigs. In the municipal elections of the following years, however, Tammany was again generally victorious. In the Presidential elections from 1842 to 1868 Tammany has invariably supported the Democratic ticket, but to a less extent within the past few years the State and municipal officers elected by its influence have discharged their trusts with a view to the public good, and by their acts have brought them prominently before the people of the country, leading to the annihilation of the political rule of the once honorable and powerful society, the exciting contest through which the organ of the Society has recently passed, has made matter of public knowledge.

THE TITUSVILLE DISASTER.

Fall of a Block of Buildings—Child Killed—Panic in the Opera House—The Loss About $25,000, &c., &c.

The Titusville papers of yesterday give additional particulars of the fall of a block of buildings in that city, a brief account of which appeared in our telegraphic columns yesterday. The *Herald* of yesterday says:

A little before midnight last night our community was startled by the intelligence, which ran rapidly through the city, that the new Roberts block had fallen, crushing in its downfall the adjoining one occupied by Mr. Whalen, injuring many of the sleeping inmates, and burying in the ruins a little son of Mr. Whalen. This most startling and unlooked-for accident occurred at twenty minutes to eleven o'clock, while a dramatic performance (Pittsburgh Opera House Company) was in progress in the Parshall Opera House, adjoining the Roberts block. The sound of the falling building, which sounded like distant thunder, and which produced a vibration resembling an earthquake, caused a sudden consternation among the audience, who sought the first exit, rushing pell-mell over the seats and benches towards the door. Mr. Frank Mayo, who was upon the stage, stepped forward and attempted to calm the audience to keep their seats, and assured them that there was no danger.

The full and full extent of the disaster was not at first realized, but it was soon discovered that the east wall of the Roberts block, which was a three-story brick block, had been undermined and fallen with a crash. About thirty feet of the top part of the brick wall, together with the roof, fell with the ruins. The western wall was still standing. Immediately adjoining the Roberts block, on the adjoining building, occupied by Mr. Whalen as a family residence, was a three-story frame. The rear wall on the southeastern corner fell inwards for the entire base for the distance of about thirty feet, the top part fell outwards, carrying with it the roof of the basement, occupied as sleeping apartments by the Parshall House dining room girls. The weight of the four floors of the block remain standing, but unsupported by iron columns and trestle work, also the Parshall House formed the cause of the accident was first directed to the condition of Mr. Whalen's building, which was found to be in rough in the center, and which was known to be occupied by Mr. Whalen's family and others. Mr. Whalen's building is three stories high, the first or basement floor being occupied as a shoe store and shop. At the time of the crash Mr. Whalen and his wife were in or about the store. His daughter was then away in the city, but not at home at the time. His little son lived, we learn, in the room on the rear on the second floor in the middle of the building on the east side. Mr. Ballantine and wife occupied apartments on the third floor in the front, and had not retired for the night. Mr. Byles, a lawyer, also had a sleeping apartment in the building, but fortunately was out at the time. The servant girl had also retired to her bed-room on the upper floor, but escaped.

The degree of the calamity which these facts was quite Providential, but the saddest tragedy of all was the death of little Freddie Whalen. Mr. Whalen and his wife quickly escaped from the ruins, but the first. Mr. Ballantine narrates his trying experience as follows: He was sleeping, together with the bed, which they were sleeping, together with the bed, was carried through to the front window, and a bureau which was in the room was thrown on top of Mr. Ballantine. Seeing a light in the room adjoining, on the south side of the building, he broke out the window sash, Mr. Ballantine endeavored to extinguish the fire, but was driven back by the flames. Thinking himself cut off, his feelings can be better imagined than described. He then broke the window sill, and called for assistance. A short time he succeeded in breaking his way through. She was almost frantic in her despair

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Cairo and St. Louis Narrow-Gauge.

Works Projected and Works Progressing.

RATIFICATION OF THE CLEVELAND AND PITTSBURGH LEASE.

CLEVELAND, November 21.—At a meeting of the stockholders of the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad Company in this city to-day, the lease of the road to the Pennsylvania Central was ratified by a large majority.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO.

CINCINNATI, November 21.—The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad will be finished between Huntington and Charleston, West Virginia, this week. Cars will commence running the 4th of December.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO COMPANY.

BALTIMORE, November 21.—At the annual meeting yesterday of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, the old Board of Directors was re-elected, the only change being the election of John King, Jr., to fill the place of the late Albert Schumacker. The annual report shows that the revenue of the road and its branches for the fiscal year was $19,857,289, an increase over the previous year of $1,717,156.

CAIRO AND ST. LOUIS NARROW-GAUGE.

The St. Louis *Republican* says: The Cairo and St. Louis Railroad, running through the river counties of Illinois, has a gauge of three feet, and is the pioneer narrow-gauge road running from St. Louis. The work of construction is progressing rapidly. The grading from opposite Carondelet to Columbia has been completed, and a large force is now at work from Columbia to the Raiboph county line. A similar force is also at work from Cairo north. About twelve miles are now ready for the superstructure. The engineers are busy locating the line, and the work of grading is put under contract as rapidly as ready. Mr. Payson one of the contractors, is now at Columbia, coming from Cairo. This is to be here by February, and it is expected that the cars will be running to Spadta, in Raiboph county, fifty miles from St. Louis, by the first of May. And to Murphysboro, in Jackson county, thirty miles further, by the first of July; after which time St. Louis will be supplied by it with Big Muddy coal at twenty-five per cent. less cost than at present. The work of construction will proceed from Cairo north, and St. Louis south simultaneously, and the road will be completed throughout its whole length by next fall.

Messrs. Payson, Hasdee & Co., the contractors of the road, are also engaged on the Northern Pacific, having been engaged this year in the construction of five hundred miles of that road.

FROM WILMINGTON, DEL., TO LANCASTER, PA.

The Wilmington (Delaware) *Commercial* of the 17th says: Chief Engineer Jackson, of the Wilmington and Western railroad, has been engaged in making application of the people along the route between Landenberg and Oxford, to make another preliminary survey of that line. He is at work this week to this end. It is found that any one of the proposed lines will develop a number of manufacturing establishments, and open a large section to trade. The company engaged on the road between Oxford and Rockdale Junction are making encouraging progress. They propose to finish the road in June next, and some $5,000 cash subscriptions per mile to start on. They now have $215,000, and are getting more. The distance is about fifty miles. Mr. Hood, a capable engineer, has been employed, and will commence his surveys at once. A prospectus of an excellent connection to Lancaster is now opening. The company who propose to build the road from that city to Reading, also propose to build the road from Lancaster down to Quarryville, which is almost in a direct line for the latter place. Oxford is the only business branch from the Oxford and Peachbottom road to Quarryville, this connection will be supplied, over a very good road, and will open up the richest agricultural portions of that fertile county. The distance from Oxford to Lancaster by this route would be from twenty to twenty-five miles, and along ways. Therefore, the prospect for our western connections is developing admirably.

WHEELING AND TOLEDO.

The second branch of the Wheeling Council adopted a resolution directing the Railroad Committee to petition the Legislature to authorize the Council to subscribe $300,000 to the projected railroad from that city to the Northwest. It was supposed until recently that the Legislature passed a bill last winter authorizing a subscription of $300,000; but an examination of the acts when published showed no such act among them. The gentlemen representatives from Ohio county supposed the bill was passed, and it has not been ascertained whether they were mistaken or whether it was omitted from the public volume by accident.

RAILWAY ITEMS FROM YOUNGSTOWN, O.

The *Mahoning Dispatch* says: Two gangs of men are busily engaged on the roadbed of the Lake Shore Railroad between this city and Hubbard, and the work is considerably advanced, although it will yet require two or three months active labor with a large force to bring the bed of the road fully to grade and ready for the ties. Another gang of men are grading within the city limits, and already the line of the road has assumed the substantial appearance features of earth cuts and fills so common on public works of this character. Ground is broken on Mr. Hine's property, over which the road will run, where a junction with the Atlantic and Great Western and Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago roads will be formed.

Several gangs of men are employed on the Ashtabula road, in the vicinity of Conneaut, and at several points along the route masons are busy putting in culverts. It will not be long before trains will be running over this road to Niles.

Concerning the Painesville road, although it is being rapidly constructed on the eastern half section, as yet but little or nothing has been done towards grading in this vicinity. However, the Warren *Chronicle* says, the contract for grading the Painesville road between Warren and this place is to be let in a short time, and there is every probability that the work will be put through with dispatch.

Mr. Warren Packard, of Warren, has the contract to furnish the ties for the Youngstown road from Warren to Youngstown.

LAKE SHORE AND TUSCARAWAS VALLEY.

The Wheeling *Intelligencer* says: The Lake Shore and Tuscarawas Valley Railroad, pointing towards this city, as heretofore noted in our columns, is making rapid progress southward, being open as far as Medina. It is under contract as far as Hudson on the Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula road, and the company is anxious to push the work on towards this city. We have seen a letter from the President of the road containing an interview between the officers of the company and the Railroad Committee of Council. We learn from the chairman of the committee that nothing of view will probably occur one day next week, at New Philadelphia or Massillon.

We may add the iron is now laid two miles south of Medina and the grading is under contract some ten miles further. It has only been some seventy-five days since the work was begun, and when in a few entire days since the work was begun, and when in a few entire days since the work was begun, and when in a few entire

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1871.

TERMS.

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THE NEXT CONGRESSIONAL SESSION.

The time for the meeting of Congress is so near at hand that its prospective proceedings are already a subject of interest not only to persons directly concerned, but to the general public. An interesting session may, with good reason, be looked for in view both of the present political condition of the nation, and in anticipation of the probable, or at least possible, political effects of Congressional acts. At present the opponents of the Administration feel that their situation is utterly desperate, a state of practical insignificance and absolute nullity, from which it is impossible for the sharpest and most penetrating Democratic optics to see any likelihood of deliverance by any agency or accident within the range of ordinary partisan tactics or development. If they are not possessed by blank despair, if they "entertain any hope," it rests in the possibility of a change in national sentiment through the mistakes or the divisions of their enemies. In so far as Democracy, distinctively so called, is concerned, its gain would be small from any such mistakes or divisions, if they occurred. But of course they are to be deprecated for other reasons as well as for the incidental use certain to be made of them, by the slight remnant of a party, which still mourns over the magnificent results of Republican policy and patriotism.

A great deal of work lies before the Congress which is so soon to assemble. On the calendar of the Senate there are said to be about three hundred and fifty bills, and on the calendar of the House nearly four hundred and fifty bills, which await the consideration of those bodies, respectively or together. Some of these bills fell through last session, and others are in the hands of the appropriate committees, but probably there is not one of them in behalf of which an attempt will not be made to secure its discussion. The income tax will again be the subject of debate and action. Three of the bills referred to above relate to proposed submarine cable enterprises between America and Asia. Fifteen of the bills make grants of public land for railroads in different States and Territories. Both in the House and the Senate bills were offered last session to secure to soldiers, their widows and orphans, homesteads on the public lands, a subject likely to come up this winter. The distribution or arrangement of representation, on the basis of the last census, will have to be considered. Objects of other bills on register are amendment of the Civil Rights Bill, amendment of the Bankrupt Law, to change New Mexico into a State, to reduce the charges for telegraphic dispatches, to combine the telegraph system with the postal service, to perfect the Fourteenth Amendment, to abolish the tax on matches, to establish the Territory of Pembina, to promote commerce between the States, etc. etc. Several of these are undoubtedly subjects of the greatest importance to the entire country, and some of the topics not here named, which are likely to come up, will seem as important and awaken as much concern as any. With reference to new business, we may be sure that, besides subjects naturally arising out of the ordinary development of the country and its affairs, more than one quite fresh question will be sprung upon Congress and the country, in a manner and under conditions which may or may not enlist general interest. Some readers may have heard intimations touching topics of the kind, and the history of former Congressional sessions raises so lively a presumption in favor of such surprises in the next, that it would be strange if they did not occur. They are sometimes the proper product of far-sighted political sagacity and patriotism recently admitted to the service of the country in a conspicuous sphere. Their origin, however, is always so respectable. Young members, or those making their sojourn in Washington memorable to the nation, or old members, who are also old men, delighting in notoriety for its own sake; often seek for their several objects in the easy though uncertain way referred to. Heretofore the people have been tolerant of the demagogical and mischievous acts by which Congress has contributed largely to lower in the eyes of the world, and the resources of the country wasted, in the fancied interest of some coarse minded politician, whom intelligent constituents would have left at home. Even now the people are not as impatient as they ought to be of being misrepresented and dishonored by proxy. But we are safe in saying that they are fast losing patience in that direction. And besides, the national business to be transacted by the assemblies which meet in Washington, now accumulates so fast, that the time is not far away when Congress will either have to remain in permanent sessions throughout the year, or else get rid of the offensive obstructions by which its work is at present delayed. Of the causes which interfere with the expeditious disposition of business, none are more effective than the arts alluded to above, comprehensively understood. Speeches ranging over half a dozen topics not directly before the House, do not in any way help on its proper work, though they may help the speakers with their constituents. And those scenes of word-fence and wrangling, which so frequently occur, and in the aggregate occupy whole weeks of precious Congressional time, while they disgrace Congress and the nation, are of no use. They illustrate nothing but the bad manners, bad taste and wit or stupidity of the Honorable antagonists. Indeed, they are mostly gotten up or kept up for the gratification of consituents, who are supposed to sympathize with their representative, but who for the most part do not care, probably, which of the contestants bears off the palm of superiority in billingsgate.

In view of the great amount of important work that Congress will have to do, it is certainly much to be wished that the members may carry with them to Washington a very distinct notion of the growing disgust with which the people at length regard dawdling and ineffectiveness in the transaction of their affairs, and especially those offenses against propriety which in former years have been so common. With the patience, good manners and quiet though earnest method of imparting information which characterize a company of private gentlemen when conferring with one another on important matters, or which mark some foreign legislative assemblies, the American House of Representatives could do its work in less than one-half the time actually expended for the purpose.

WILL THE POPE LEAVE ROME?

His Holiness, the Pope, may have asked for and obtained from M. THIERS permission to take up his abode in France. Former negotiations on the subject, the disgust with which the Holy Father regards his present position, and the well known views and wishes of his Jesuit advisers, are sufficient to give the telegraphic announcement an air of plausibleness, or at least to divest it of the character of mere impossibility. As a pure invention it had likelihood enough in the political surroundings of the subject to make it sensational. It is, however, utterly improbable that the Pope intends, or even seriously thinks of, leaving Rome to reside in any other city or country on earth. The subject is evidently one concerning which he must have made up his mind many months ago, as there was a time when his resolution, followed by fulfillment, would have been decisively effective for good or evil, as respects the great human interest of which he has charge. No doubt the policy of withdrawing from Rome was fully considered and finally decided, if not before or immediately after VICTOR EMANUEL's first visit to the city, certainly at the time of the promulgation of the guarantees. To have hastened away from the place at either one of these times would have seemed to the world the energetic action of a ruler who felt that there was no wise or consistent alternative for him to take, and would make a profound impression upon the minds of the faithful everywhere. Though the step might not have changed the course of history, its effect would undoubtedly have been a heavier blow to the King of Italy than any of the lamatory allocutions or encyclicals in which His Holiness has proclaimed his indignation and invoked the Divine vengeance. Having neglected the opportunity, or rather having chosen to stay at Rome, as the course most advantageous to the church, nothing has since occurred that would appear to justify a change of purpose. The resolution to remain was wisely taken. No event would tend so much to destroy the prestige of the Catholic Church, and to divest it of its influence upon the imaginations of mankind, as the transfer of its center from Rome to any other city, however ancient or splendid. It would seem to have lost its historical life, its roots in the past would be withered.

In the announcement of removal to France, some perceive a last desperate attempt on the part of the Pope's advisers to prevent the formal inauguration of Rome as the capital of Italy. The time is near at hand when the Italian Parliament will be opened there by a speech from the throne, in the presence of the ambassadors and other representatives of all the great powers of the world. So complete, undeniable and general a recognition of all the recent proceedings of the Italian government, such a consecration of the old city in its new character of center of Italian unity, cannot fail to crush forever those hopes of foreign interference and restoration which are still cherished in the Papal mind. In the feeble and foolish hope of frightening the King of Italy from his purpose of thus treating the country sever between his government and the Court of Rome as already settled in favor of the former, it is thought that the intended departure of the Pope may have been published. The publication may have been expected to operate in two or more ways. His Holiness having been received in France, France might be supposed committed to his cause in a degree which would render future action in his behalf, and consequent difficulties between the two neighboring governments, inevitable. Italian statesmen may also be supposed very much concerned that the Pope shall not die in France, lest some one not an Italian should be elected his successor, and for other reasons. The Papalini may also have hoped that the announcement of the Papal "flight" into France would create a flutter of excitement in Berlin. The German Emperor having millions of Catholic subjects, he cannot be presumed wholly indifferent about the dwelling place of PIUS the Ninth, or concerning the person who must soon succeed him. If the late sensational dispatch originated in Rome, it may be plausibly referred to some such reasons, however weak and unlikely to accomplish anything they may seem. In fact, there it no reason to think that Prince BISMARCK would deem it worth while to utter a word to prevent the Pope from removing to France. His presence there would be a source of weakness, not of strength, to his entertainers, as Frenchmen seem well aware, and whatever troubles he might cause them, complications with Italy included, would, of course, be satisfactory rather than otherwise to the Berlin government. So far as effect upon the Italian government may have been intended by the report, it is certain to be abortive. The Italians are not at present afraid of the French, and do not expect to be afraid of them. Most likely they do not in the least believe that the Pope intends to to leave them, as on the 27th of October, in a formal allocution, he announced his intention to appoint incumbents to the Italian bisopries which have been so long vacant. This is not a first step toward the reversal of his act of excommunication, and will no doubt be followed by other concessions.

SMALL-POX—CANDID STATEMENT

For the information of our readers in the rural districts, many of whom are frequent visitors to Pittsburgh, on account of business relations, we deem it proper to make a candid statement with regard to the small-pox. Frequent reference has been made to the subject during the few months past in these columns, and also by the other city dailies. There has not been any attempt at concealment. Indeed, if any error has been committed it has been in the almost numberless references made to it in the public prints. Merchants and others have justly complained that these many references, so often made without giving the precise facts and figures, have greatly wronged numerous honest business houses in other cities; hucksters and peddlers who take advantage of the credulity of farmers, and by keeping them away from the markets purchase their produce at reduced rates, and others who seem to be influenced solely by a love of the marvelous, if not of direct and positive lying, have taken advantage of these statements, and not only repeated but grossly and shamefully exaggerated them. One man stated in one of the towns on the Monongahela river that during a night he spent in Pittsburgh sixty-eight funerals passed the house in which he slept (doubtless he saw them), and that in Birmingham the mortality was so great that it was necessary to dig trenches outside the sidewalks and deposit the bodies in them instead of taking them to the cemetery! The truth is the mortality has never reached thirty a week, save in one instance, and the justification of the city papers for their frequent articles is found in the fact that the disease is one of which every community desires to free itself; and because we thought the sanitary measures were not sufficiently vigorous and decided.

We are happy to inform our readers that such measures have at last been adopted. Houses where the disease exists are properly placarded. Allegheny City patients are taken to a hospital eight miles distant. A fine of five hundred dollars will be imposed on persons afflicted with the disease who come into the city. The good results are already visible. The disease seems not only to be checked, but on the decline, and we believe it will soon be eradicated.

One fact is worthy of note. But for the notices in the papers the masses would scarcely have known of the existence of the disease in the city. The cases were mainly confined to a few districts. So little alarm was felt by the multitude that for a time it was almost impossible to induce them to be vaccinated. And we may add that all should be vaccinated whether they live in city or country. Small-pox cases are found not only in New York, Newark and Philadelphia, but are reported in Altoona, Hollidaysburg, Johnstown, Latrobe, Rochester, Steubenville and other points. There is so much daily travel through all parts of the country that no one is secure who has not been vaccinated. If you have been you may come to Pittsburgh with impunity; and if you do you will be amazed, as many others have been, at the little evidences you will see of its existence. Practically the masses know scarcely anything about it.

THE vigorous sermon of HENRY WARD BEECHER on the ballot and the political duties of the hour, preached to his congregation last Sunday, has, judging from the general approbation bestowed on it by the press, produced an uncommon impression. It contains one point, however, which, somewhat singularly perhaps, appears to have escaped notice. Referring to certain "vigilance committee" hints and suggestions which have from time to time been thrown out in New York, Mr. BEECHER rebuked them in the most emphatic manner, remarking that if reputable men combined to expel monsters by violence, these would in turn combine to expel those in a similar manner, thus bringing about a condition of perfect anarchy and terror. The nail thus driven home by Mr. BEECHER is clinched by the reflection that bad men have obtained power in New York and elsewhere chiefly because of the criminality of good men in abandoning political affairs to ignorance and brute force. Nothing can justify, or even extenuate resort to lynch law, except the failure, after honest and protracted trial, of all other remedies and means of reform. Upright men who desert the ballot box and refuse to accept the public trusts, have no right to complain of abuses until they have discharged their own duties and fulfilled their own obligations. For justice, like charity, begins at home.

MR. JUSTICE REED Monday delivered the opinion of the Supreme Court in the case of the *Credit Mobilier of America vs.* The Commonwealth, reversing the decree of the Court of Dauphin county, and awarding a new trial. The opinion is a very lengthy one, and fortifies the positions assumed by the counsel for the *Credit Mobilier*. Mr. Justice AGNEW filed a dissenting opinion.

GEN. GRANT has appointed C. A. ARTHUR Collector at the port of New York in the place of MURRAY. The latter resigned the office, and it is fair to presume that he did so at the President's request.

HOW TO MAKE THE OHIO ALWAYS NAVIGABLE.

[From the Cincinnati Gazette.]

If an artificial pond like the Lewistown reservoir, constructed, we think, for less than a million, in a country which afforded no peculiar natural advantages for it, can supply the Miami Canal and all its lockages and water power for a hundred days of the dry season, is it not reasonable to suppose that in the head waters of the various rivers that form the Ohio, in valleys which nature has fitted for reservoirs, and where land is of but little value, reservoirs can be formed at a moderate cost that will supply four feet of water in the Ohio through the dry season? Will not the growing value of this navigation, and the great loss that is inflicted on a great extent of country by its suspension, cause an official inquiry into this matter by the engineers of the Government?

All the various methods, including that by reservoirs, for "making the Ohio always navigable," have been thoroughly examined by experienced engineers. The results of their labors, his own included, have been elaborately discussed and tabulated by W. MILNOR ROBERTS, Esq., in his final report upon the Ohio River Improvement, made at the time of his resignation from charge of that work, to Gen. A. A. HUMPHREYS, Chief of United States Engineers, dated April 11, 1870, and printed at the last session of Congress, constituting Executive Document No. 72. In that report, which is most able and exhaustive, the *Gazette* will find all the information desired on this very important subject.

We take this occasion to quote, for general use, the aggregates of cost of "making the Ohio always navigable," from Pittsburgh to Cairo, as given in Mr. ROBERTS's report:

1. Locks and dams with chutes	$23,777,662
2. Reservoirs (Eliet's full plan)	60,000,000
3. Low dams and mounds, with auxiliary reservoirs	42,000,000
4. Dams and patent chutes for 100 feet width of channel	17,437,123
5. Canal, continuous	54,000,000

How small these sums appear when compared with the magnitude of the commerce which yearly floats upon the water of the Ohio, under all present disadvantages, amounting to more than $700,000,000, and the great additional value which a continuous navigation would give it as a channel of trade, together with the immense increase in the amounts of the commodities that would be transported upon it. The encouragement and protection of our foreign commerce, which is but little more than that of the Ohio, runs up to a larger sum every year than the cost set down above, for either of the plans for making our river perpetually navigable and ever in a condition to diffuse the blessing of cheap transit among the millions inhabiting the vast and fertile area made accessible and inviting by the "father of waters" and its tributaries. We hope the *Gazette* will continue the agitation of this subject, and that others will take it up, until the citizens of the valley, from the lakes to the gulf, and from the Apalachians to the Rocky mountains, make their reasonable demand of Congress with a unanimity that will be listened to with deferance. Attention to this would be much more consonant to the duties of wise government, than intermeddling, without knowledge, to diminish steam pressure upon tow-boats so as to render them practically inefficient or utterly useless.

AN OLD SUBJECT REVIVED.

Most readers propably remember, or will be able to recollect the attempt, many months ago, of a delegation of the Evangelical Alliance to promote religious freedom in Russia. The interview of the deputation with Prince GORTSCHAKOFF, its character and result, afforded the newspapers of both continents a subject of not a little gossip more or less authentic, and of comment more or less pertinent. After many contradictory statements and much discussion, it seemed to be agreed that the Deputation had not only quite failed in effecting any part of its object, but had been, if not exactly "snubbed" by Prince GORTSCHAKOFF, certainly treated in a manner to discourage any renewal of efforts on the part of the Alliance to exert a direct influence on Russian politics. But so many of the organs of public opinion, from which more generous views might have been expected, appeared so eager to accredit and report the discomfiture of the Delegates, that the outside world was after all somewhat uncertain as to the fact. An official report of the transaction or attempt by the persons best qualified to correct misrepresentations, and to tell the whole truth, has at length appeared, and even the long delay has not divested it of all interest to those subject formerly gave rise. Of the report we have seen only a synopsis, from which it appears that the Deputies of the Alliance were greatly pleased with their reception by the Russian Chancellor. Though they do not claim any direct effect as the result of their endeavors, they entertain the belief that their interposition indirectly led to the adoption by the Russian Government of measures breathing a more tolerant spirit towards its heterodox subjects. Hence it would appear that if the Deputies were "snubbed" by GORTSCHAKOFF, he must have performed the unpleasant operation in a fine princely fashion, which prevented them from detecting its real character. He must have "kicked them down stairs with such a sweet grace, that they thought he was handing them up." The Prince is well known to be a master of such arts when he chooses to exercise them, and to be able to reject a petition in a manner which makes the refusal seem a favor.

Though the Deputation, doubtless, express their sincere belief when they ascribe to their representations some indirect influence in awakening a tendency towards greater liberality in the Russian Government, we have little doubt that the notion is groundless. The whole business was evidently mismanaged. The mere publicity in which the proceeding was begun and carried out would have sufficed to render it abortive. Through no fault probably of the earnest men engaged in it, the entire undertaking was the subject of newspaper reports and discussions, which were necessarily offensive in St. Petersburg, and gave an air of presumptious ostentation to the affair quite foreign to the character of the delegates. They were never permitted to lay their object before the Emperor, the only person, as they likely very well knew, upon whom they could hope to make any impression by their appeals. And facts do not justify the assumption that their interview with the Chancellor was the indirect occasion of a favorable change in Russian policy as regards dissenters. Indeed, our German neighbor, the *Freiheits Freund*, in an article on the subject, seems inclined to think that foreign meddling in this instance may have had positively mischievous consequences. Not long after the conversation of the American Commission with Prince GORTSCHAKOFF an imperial ukase appeared, in which extremely severe measures against the inhabitants of Courland and Livonia were enjoined in reference to churches and schools. While it may reasonably be doubted whether these measures of increased rigor were in any degree inspired by such petty resentment, it is, we believe, indisputable that no mitigation in the condition of religious dissenters in the Baltic provinces can be fairly traced to the address with which the Evangelical Commission wearied the ears of the Russian Chancellor.

We cannot, however, agree with the *Freiheits Freund* in thinking, as it seems to do, that any attempt of the kind made by the New York branch of the Evangelical alliance must have been necessarily futile. To any person even superficially acquainted with European affairs and relations, it thinks, the result could never have been in the least doubtful, and while giving the gentlemen of the Commission credit for the best and most benevolent motives, the peculiar national vanity of native Americans seems to our contemporary to have played no small part in the affair. Without the least disposition to deny the charge of vanity, or to find any fault with the philosophical use which the *Freund* in this instance makes of the admitted trait, we cannot help questioning the soundness of its views. As intimated above, we suppose that the show of vanity or vain-glory imparted to the action of the Alliance was the result of the neligence which failed to prevent the immediate and extensive publication of a scheme of quiet interposition which was no doubt intended to be kept private, or at least confided to as few persons as possible. With reference to the motives which actuated the members of the Alliance, enthusiasm probably entered more largely into them than vanity. Peaceful and earnest interposition in behalf of the oppressed everywhere, and especially in behalf of religious freedom was, we believe, one of the objects for which the Alliance was formed, and the good results of its activity in that direction, have been seen and recognized in several instances well known to the world. The right and duty of such an organization to exert its influence in favor of civil and religious liberty being conceded, its American members must be allowed to do so with peculiar fitness and propriety, and upon them seemed to devolve the duty of appealing to the Russian Emperor. Of all the members of the body, they alone could affirm that they asked his majesty to grant nothing which they did not themselves concede. Remembering this circumstance, the *Freund's* reference to the abortive efforts of the German government to secure religious freedom for Germans in the Czar's dominions as a reason why the Commission had no grounds to look for success in a similar endeavor, loses its force. The Czar may have, no doubt has applied to his royal German petitioners, the saying—Physician, heal thyself!

With reference to the chances of success with which the Commission went to St. Petersburg, while we do not think they were brilliant with whatever discretion and adroitness the affair might be managed, it does not seem that the undertaking was purely Quixotic or absurd. The Russian Emperor is the one ruler in Europe to whom an appeal of the kind may be addressed, with some prospect of producing an impression destined to be transferred into wide reaching acts. The history of Russia for the last hundred and fifty years illustrates the influence of individual Czars. Several of them have been peculiarly susceptible to appeals from obscure or relatively insignificant persons, who appeared to be thoroughly sincere and earnest in behalf of some humane or worthy object. Thus to mention only one or two instances; the late Emperor NICHOLAS made in portant concessions to the British and Foreign Bible Society on the petition of an American clergyman without official title or rank. And the Emperor ALEXANDER the First was still more accessible to the influence of humble and zealous men. Thus in the life of the French-American Quaker Apostle, STEPHEN GRELLET, we are told that when he was in Russia in 1819, "the Emperor sent for him, and having made him sit beside him on a sofa," they talked together in the most familiar way. GRELLET introduced the subject of prisons in the Russian dominions, and "showed the Czar a sketch from a prison at Abo, of a man with his fetters upon him." The Emperor was much affected, says GRELLET, and said, "these things ought not to be—they shall not continue so." In fact, orders were at once issued for the relief of all the prisoners whom GRELLET represented as too harshly dealt with, and he was requested as he traveled to collect observations which might be useful in what is now called Prison Reform. In a word, where a single man has so much in his power as a Russian Czar, it may seem expedient to remind him of the right and appeal to him to do it, however slight may be the prospect of his heeding the appeal.

THERE are several different methods of acquiring knowledge. Some persons learn by intuition, others are easily taught by experience, while some scholars there are with whom the only way of cudgeling an idea into their brains is by applying a stout rod to the back. Birched by almost every State which has held an election this fall, the Democratic party is beginning to obtain some glimmering notion of the irrevocable determination of the people to continue the policy of the Republican party, and to lose confidence in itself as a distinctive organization accordingly. Many of those who have hitherto been the most pronounced sticklers for party organization not only now favor, but absolutely clamor for, a coalition with conservative elements outside, and the number is increasing every day. It is not to be wondered that they are at their wit's end. Conceding to the Democracy, in the Presidential campaign of next year, the States of New Jersey and New Hampshire, the electoral vote of the States in which elections have recently been held will in all probability be as follows:

Democratic.		Republican.	
Maryland	7	Illinois	16
Virginia	10	Maine	7
West Virginia	5	Massachusetts	13
Kentucky	11	Rhode Island	4
Texas	6	Connecticut	6
New Jersey	7	New York	33
New Hampshire	5	Pennsylvania	26
		Ohio	21
		Wisconsin	8
		Iowa	8
		North Carolina	9
		Arkansas	5
		Mississippi	7
		Minnesota	4
		California	5
Total	82	Total	171

This is the handwriting which Democracy sees upon the wall, and this the reason of the imploring cry for help which comes up from all quarters. Nevertheless, tardy and constrained as are its confessions of past wrong, and its promises of future amendment, they furnish occasion for rejoicing. Aside from their value as distinct acknowledgements of the intrinsic merits of Republicanism, they afford ground for hope that the bitter era of caste-prejudice and hatred is well nigh over, and that the spirit which has ostracised men for their opinions, oppressed and persecuted the poor and lowly, and set itself over in gloomy opposition to every liberal and beneficent movement of the age, is slowly sinking into its grave. This is matter for congratulation. Democracy cannot win back its departed power, not even by the help of any fusion; but if its leaders have really learned the worse than foolishness of trying to roll back the earth on its axis, and are henceforth willing to address themselves honestly and intelligently to the emancipation of its masses from the thraldom of ignorance and blindness in which they have dwelt, they will contribute far more effectually to the advancement of the best interests of the country than they could possibly hope to do by the election of a President and the recovery of their lost political estate.

THE recent publication of the trade returns of England for the nine months ending September 30th of the present year, would seem to show very plainly the reason of the tenacity with which she clings to her free trade theories and notions. According to this exhibit there is no other nation in the world that is so absolutely dependent on other countries for the grand essentials of breadstuffs and provisions. During the nine months in question Great Britain paid the enormous sum of £87,283,422 for importations of food and articles of consumption to supply the wants of its population; being at the rate of $572,500,000 a year, or a sum more than equal to the entire proceeds of the foreign exports of the United States, which during the last fiscal year amounted to $534,058,752. The whole world is laid under contributions for England's supplies, and almost the whole power of its varied and mighty industries is needed to enable it to bear the immense expenses of living. During the same period the value of the entire exports of Great Britain reached $697,951,960, of which her cotton and woolen exports amounted to $377,328,295; the raw material, however, costing $278,942,316; leaving less than $100,000,000 to pay for machinery, wages, and other manufacturing expenses. Iron and steel rank next in importance as articles of export, their total value for the period mentioned being $100,000,000. These returns indicate the gravity of England's problem how to live, and very clearly suggest the reason of her tenacity to make free markets for her goods among the various nations of the world. Were her condition and resources of a different character, her policy would differ accordingly. Dependent for existence on her conversion and re-sale of the raw fabrics of foreign countries, it is easy to understand the rest. But the law of self-preservation is not less imperative for ourselves than important for her.

THE New York *Standard*, which has hitherto been considered to possess a leading interest in the combination said to have been formed for the purpose of defeating the renomination of President GRANT, referring in its issue of Wednesday to the managerial meeting which is soon to be held in New York, goes back on its own record in the matter, and intimates that nothing but a conspicuous lack of political acumen could possibly bring the disaffected together. "Our advice to these men," says the *Standard*, "is to accept the inevitable," and it expresses the opinion that the alternatives are the renomination of GRANT and the consolidation of the results of the war, or a season of intrigues and disappointments which will carry the party to pieces on a lee shore. This is pretty strong language for a journal which has heretofore been conspicuous for its opposition to the administration, and is significant as showing the drift and tendency of political currents. A number of earnest Republicans of position and influence have undoubtedly to a greater or less degree sympathized with the protesting movement, but judging from the admission of the *Standard* that it is doomed to an "utter and ignominious failure," its hold upon the people at large would seem to be but slight.

THE law case growing out of the will of BONARD, the so-call French miser, who left his large property to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, still drags its slow length along. So many hungry relatives of the deceased have come to light to claim an interest in the estate of the kinsman with whom the dence refused to have anything to do, and so many "able lawyers" are engaged in maintaining their cause, that the prospects of Mr. BERG's society are certainly far from brillint. The ocean lies between the property and the private claimants and the proces is necessarily expensive on that acount. Another hearing was had a few days ago, when additional witnesses were examined in reference to BONARD's state of mind with respect to soundness of insanity. The case of those who contest the will, seems to depend on their success or failure in the attempt to prove him insane an attempt thus far quite bootless it so far as outsiders may presume to judge. In the late examinations Dr. HOGAN, physician to the St. Vincent Hospital, testified that when BONARD was admitted there, though very ill and very feeble, he gave no indication of mental alienation. One Father AUBRIL, a Catholic priest, who had visited the deceased at the hospital, described him as friendly and courteous, manifesting no dislike or distrust of him on account of his sacerdotal character. Indeed, before his decease he received the sacraments of communion and exreme unction. In answer to questions, Father AUBRIL declared that "one who believes in metempsychosis or transmigration of souls, is a Catholic," and also that, "in his opinion one who thus believes is not in possession of his reason." This was going rather far. Concerning the first proposition there is no call for objection or demur. A Roman Catholic who professes belief in the transmigration of souls is, to be sure, either ignorant of the doctrines of his church, or else indifferent to them and heterodox. But to deny the sanity of one who believes in metempsychosis is surely to pay very little respect to the authority of great names or of numbers. The celebrated philosophers and religious founders who have accepted and taught the doctrine are so familiarly known to all readers that we need not name them. Then, in old times the wise Egyptians, the Rabbins of all times, and at this moment the Brahmins, Buddhists, etc. In fact, at the present day it is the belief of much the largest proportion of the human race, not only the rude and uninstructed multitude are regulated by it in their conduct towards their own kind and towards the lower animal creation, but educated and wealthy merchants are sometimes so influenced by it in the disposition of their property as often to set an example which BONARD may have thought he was imitating in bequeathing his money to Mr. BERGH. In many parts of Asia such a will would be regarded as an evidence of pre-eminent sanity, sanity as indubitable as that of the man who in Spain "dies and endows a church."

IS THERE really any trouble brewing between Prussia and the Northern Bruin? When the German Government recently decided to lock up thirty millions of dollars in its military chests, it assigned as the reason of the step that if Prussia were suddenly called on to raise a war fund it must other-wise necessarily be at a heavy sacrifice. But the London *Times* points out that, under the most alarming circumstances, the sacrifice could hardly exceed fifteen per cent. on the price of German stock, and that the loss of interest by the lock-up will in three years amount to considerably more than that sum. It would almost seem, therefore, that BISMARCK calculated upon the certainty of a new war with some power before that period. Now, the question is, what power? On the 29th of October GORTSCHAKOFF, of Russia, visited the Emperor of Germany, and held a protracted conference with him. At the ensuing day the Emperor said: "If the sword should be again forced into our hand by our enemies—which God forbid—let us be found ready. It is in time of peace that we can best prepare for the defense of our country." Was this speech of Monday the result of the conference of Sunday? And why, immediately following the return of Prince GORTSCHAKOFF to Russia, should the "semi-official" journals of that country counsel the Government to demand the neutralization of Denmark and the restoration of Northern Schleswig to the latter country, "as a means of counteracting the power of Prussia on the Baltic Sea," followed by the issue of an imperial edict for the further Russianization of its Baltic provinces by constituting Russian the official language, and transferring the seat of Dorpat University to Wilna? These things have about them a smell of gunpowder by no means calculated to inspire confidence in the pacific temper either of the Prussian eagle or the Russian bear.

A CORRESPONDENT, in order to give the public an idea of the advantages of river and railroad carriage for freights, makes this interesting calculation and comparison: On Thursday and Friday, 127,000 bushels of coal were shipped. This equals 229,961 tons. To carry this by rail, at ten tons to each car, would require 22,996 cars. With 25 cars to a train, 919 locomotives would be necessary to haul these trains. Allowing these trains to be ten minutes apart in starting, 153 hours would be spent in starting them—and at that rate there would be 400 trains due in Cincinnati before the last one had left this city. All these trains combined would extend a distance of nearly 145¼ miles, thus: 22,996 cars, averaging thirty feet in length—689,880 feet; 919 locomotives and tenders, averaging forty-five feet—41,355 feet; for couplings, 25,500 feet—in all, 756,655 feet, or a fraction over 145 miles. It would be simply impossible for the railways, with their present equipments, to move this immense mass of bulky freight, and if they were able they could not carry it half so cheaply. Since the shipments of coal from this port aggregate annually nine or ten times the amount above stated, the importance of the Ohio becomes still more apparent. And large as these coal shipments are, there must be added to them hundreds of thousands of tons of iron, glass, agricultural implements, etc., carried down in freight boats, which return to us laden with cotton, tobacco, sugar, grain and other products. The great wonder is, why a great natural highway like the Ohio should have been neglected so long by the National Legislature, when it might be permanently improved at a moderate cost—a cost insignificant when compared with the advantages which it would confer upon the nation.

NO MORE gratifying indication of the confidence reposed in the wisdom and integrity of the National Administration could be afforded than the constantly improving character of the national credit abroad. Reports from Europe state that never in the financial history of that continent has there been so active a demand for United States securities as at present. While the disturbed condition of European politics is impairing the value of European bonds, the growing stability and order which characterize affairs in the United States, are enhancing its credit so rapidly that the demand for its securities can no longer be supplied by Government bonds, whose aggregate is growing less every month. Streams of foreign capital are pouring into this country for investment in sound securities, and there is every reason to suppose that with New York city reconstructed on a basis to render future frauds impossible, our swindlers punished, our defaulters brought to book, and the government conducted on its present line of integrity and efficiency, this volume will continue to swell and expand as the numerous fields for the investment of money become more fully known. Again, therefore, is it demonstrated that political character is financial credit, and that, in the lowest and most practical as in the most supreme sense, honesty is not only the best policy, but the best capital.

NOTWITHSTANDING the failure of Mr. SCOTT RUSSELL's scheme for the union of the peers and workingmen of England, and the guarded denials which a number of the peers who were alleged to have engaged in the movement, have put forth, it by no means necessarily follows, as certain New York journals would appear to think, that any future coalition between the two classes is impossible. On the contrary, while there is no doubt that the proposed alliance was in several of its features chimerical, and the programme too extensive to be practically carried out, there is a strong probability that the exhaustive discussion which has been had upon the subject, intimating, as it has done, to the peers their need and to the people their power, will ultimately produce results of no inconsiderable importance. Nothing is more natural than that the privileged classes of any country should be slow and cautious in giving in their adhesion to such a popular movement, nor indeed is it desirable to force the consummation of any radical change more rapidly than the advance of the working classes in intelligence and organizing power warrants; but there seems no reasonable room to question that, considering the growing adaptability of British legislation to conform itself with the altered and altering circumstances of the country, the defeated project is but the precursor of some broader movement, with somewhat similar purposes in view, which in all likelihood will succeed.

EX-SENATOR WADE, who from his long political career and his intimate acquaintance with the people of the West, is certainly to be supposed to know whereof he speaks, states that the popular impression which prevails in the Eastern States relative to the opposition of the agricultural classes of the West to the system of protective tariffs, is erroneous. He affirms that whenever in the West the Republican party has placed itself squarely in favor of the tariff, it has always received the heaviest majorities, notwithstanding the opposition of the Chicago *Tribune* and a few leaders of the party. Senator WADE pronounces himself in favor of such an arrangement of the tariff as will enable us to pay off some fifty millions of dollars of the public debt every year, and as much more as can be done without burdening the people heavily. He declares the Republican party to be stronger in the West to-day than at any previous time, and divides the reason thereof between its tariff policy and its determination to preserve the national integrity. Relative to the Presidency, the veteran statesman is positive in his conviction that GRANT will be his own successor, and that he will be elected to his second term by as large a proportionate majority as President MONROE after the war of 1812. He holds that the country substantially approves his course, and that in the interest of quietude it will decline to make any change, but will move along in its present beaten channels, paying off its debts and mastering its problems at home, and improving its credit abroad.

IT IS gratifying to know that the last jobbing scheme for obtaining possession of thirty or forty millions of acres of the public domain, under the guise of aiding in the establishment of State collegiate universities, to which we recently referred, meets with but little favor. Many of the ablest professors in the leading universities of the United States are said to have entered their protest against it, upon the ground that an increased number of such colleges tends to discontinue the dissemination of knowledge such as is at present obtained through universities more national in their character, and where the interests of the colleges are applied to all nativities. There is considerable force in this objection, but still more in the fact that the country cannot spare the land, and that even if it could the grant would in all probability be perverted from its intention, by the speculators and lobbyists who have the project in control. A strong pressure has, it is stated, been brought to bear on the Commissioner of Education to induce him to give favorable allusion to the proposition in his forthcoming annual report, but it is thought not with success.

THE Cincinnati *Enquirer* heartily seconds our proposition for a Convention of the West and Southwest, to determine upon a plan for the improvement of the Ohio river, and to ask for such Government legislation and aid as are necessary to carry out the object, and suggests that the convention be held in Cincinnati at an early period in the coming session of Congress, urging upon the Councils and Chambers of Commerce of the large river cities to lead off in the matter at once. We agree with the *Enquirer* that all that is wanted to push the plan to a successful issue is action and unity throughout the West and Southwest. The Government will cease to treat this great artery of trade and commerce as if it were a duck-pond just as soon as those who are interested discharge their obligations concerning it.

THE coal fleet which left this city Friday consisted of fifty-one powerful steam tugs, having in tow four hundred and forty boats and barges, containing in round numbers five million bushels of coal. Between twelve and fifteen hundred hands are required to man these tugs. In addition to the coal, there will be large shipments of Pittsburgh manufactured articles, to the South and West, by the regular freight boats, a number of which will be ready to depart in a few days.

THE *Post* on Friday asserted that Mr. B. W. MORGAN, Republican candidate for Mayor, was enlisting the support of the friends of certain convicts in the penitentiary, by promising to use his influence to secure their pardon. This statement is unqualifiedly false—without a shadow of foundation. The story that Mr. MORGAN is in any way connected with an alleged scheme to have the city vote polled at City Hall is equally false and unfounded.

Fred Douglass on San Domingo.

The annexation of Santo Domingo having ceased to be a political issue, some reference to the opinions of Frederick Douglass on the subject may not be uninteresting or out of place. Mr. Douglass, it will be remembered, accompanied the commission to that country at the express invitation of President Grant. Until a late period he has given no public intimation of the conclusions reached in his mind concerning the desirability of annexation. In a lecture delivered in Boston a few days ago, however, he came out squarely in favor of the project, not so much, it would be said, because of any benefit to be of advantage to us, as for the reason that it would benefit that country. This missionary argument Mr. Douglass enforced by citing the sympathy and commiseration he had evinced for the poor in Ireland, as to those of Poland, Ireland and France; putting Santo Domingo into the same class of suffering countries because her people had been oppressed by rapacious rulers and were in danger of being thrust back to barbarism instead of led forward to civilization. The summing up of his opinions is, that Latin civilization in San Domingo is a failure by reason of the rapacious ambition and greed of gold which have characterized it; that there is nothing in the climate of the country which makes the improvement impossible; that the inhabitants are too contented, their chief want being more wants; that the curse of the country is the rival and disturbing chiefs who are constantly stirring up revolutions; that society has so long been running in these grooves of disorder that it is too weak to lift itself out of them, and that the people want to put themselves under the protection of some strong power like that of the United States. Mr. Douglass is a clear observer and thinker, and his influence is for annexation is the strongest, because most logical, that we have yet seen. He deals with the subject, however, solely from the standpoint of his own race. The time may come when the people of the United States will consider it their duty to espouse the cause which he so ably advocates; but they must first be just to themselves at home, before entering on the execution of any missionary project, however magnanimous in their character, abroad.

HARDLY a journal in New York wrought more excellent service in the late city and State reform movement than the *Staats Zeitung*, the leading German Democratic newsp